

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takahiro KONDO et al.

Application No.: New U.S. National Stage of  
PCT/JP2004/016053

Filed: April 27, 2006

Docket No.: 127880

For: METHOD OF INSPECTING UNEVENNESS OF PARTITION SURFACE OF  
HONEYCOMB STRUCTURE AND INSPECTING DEVICE

**TRANSMITTAL OF POWER OF ATTORNEY AND  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 3.73(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is a Power of Attorney from the Assignee.

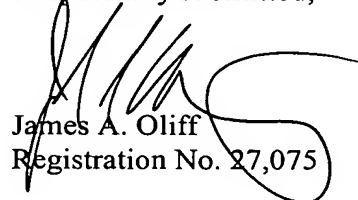
In compliance with 37 CFR §3.73(b), the undersigned hereby states that NGK INSULATORS, LTD. is the assignee [are together the assignees] of the entire right, title and interest in the patent application identified above by virtue of an assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application identified above. A copy of the assignment is attached hereto and is concurrently being submitted for recordation.

The undersigned is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.36(a), submission of this Power of Attorney revokes any powers of attorney previously given.

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION SHOULD  
BE SENT TO OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC, CUSTOMER NO. 25944, TELEPHONE  
(703) 836-6400.**

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong  
Registration No. 36,430

JAO:JSA/emt  
Date: April 27, 2006

EXHIBIT A

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY  
TO PROSECUTE APPLICATIONS BEFORE  
THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Assignee Name and Address: NGK Insulators, Ltd.  
2-56, Suda-cho, Mizuho-ku, Nagoya-city  
Aichi-prefecture, 467-8530 Japan

appoints the patent practitioners associated with Oliff & Berridge, PLC Customer  
Number 25944 to represent it before the United States Patent and Trademark Office in  
connection with any and all U.S. patent applications assigned to the above-named assignee.

The undersigned is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION SHOULD  
BE SENT TO OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC, CUSTOMER NO. 25944, TELEPHONE  
(703) 836-6400.**

October 28, 2004  
Date

Takafumi Hochi  
Signature

Typed Name: Takafumi Hochi

Title: General Manager, Legal Affairs &  
Intellectual Property Department